

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method comprising:
- (a) entering a first input numeric value;
  - 5 (b) determining a first output numeric value based on the first input numeric value;
  - (c) displaying the first output numeric value in a first field on a display screen, wherein the first field comprises an intersection of a first column and a first row;
  - (d) entering a mathematical operator;
  - 10 (e) automatically switching input focus to a second field in response to the entering the mathematical operator, wherein the second field is displayed below the first field on the display screen;
  - (f) entering a second input numeric value;
  - (g) determining a second output numeric value based on the second input
  - 15 numeric value;
  - (h) displaying the second output numeric value in the second field on the display screen;
  - (i) repeating steps (c) through (h) until all input numeric values and mathematical operators in a desired calculation have been received into the memory;
  - 20 (j) automatically calculating a result of the input numeric values and mathematical operators entered in steps (a) through (i); and
  - (k) automatically displaying the result at a field on the display screen in the first column below the output numeric values and mathematical operators.
- 25 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- automatically inserting the second field in response to the entering the mathematical operator, wherein the second field comprises an intersection of the first

column and a second row below the first field, and wherein the second field is initially displayed as empty.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

5 (l) modifying one or more of the input numeric values or mathematical operators in its location on the display screen; and

(m) automatically recalculating and redisplaying the result of the input numeric values and mathematical operators as modified.

10 4. The method of claim 1,

wherein at least one of the output numeric values is substantially identical in form to the corresponding input numeric value.

5. The method of claim 1,

15 wherein step (c) is performed substantially simultaneously with step (a).

6. The method of claim 1,

wherein step (h) is performed substantially simultaneously with step (f).

20 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

performing steps (a) through (k) again in a second column on the display screen, wherein the second column comprises a plurality of number fields displayed vertically and a plurality of operation fields displayed vertically.

25 8. A system comprising:

a CPU;

a display screen coupled to the CPU;

a memory coupled to the CPU, wherein the memory stores program instructions which are executable by the CPU to:

- (a) receive into the memory a first input numeric value;
- (b) determine a first output numeric value based on the first input numeric value;
- (c) display the first output numeric value in a first field on the display screen, wherein the first field comprises an intersection of a first column and a first row;
- (d) receive into the memory a mathematical operator;
- (e) automatically switch input focus to a second field in response to the receiving into the memory the mathematical operator, wherein the second field is displayed below the first field on the display screen;
- (f) receive into the memory a second input numeric value;
- (g) determine a second output numeric value based on the second input numeric value;
- (h) display the second output numeric value in the second field on the display screen;
- (i) repeat steps (c) through (h) until all input numeric values and mathematical operators in a desired calculation have been received into the memory;
- (j) automatically calculate a result of the input numeric values and mathematical operators entered in steps (a) through (i); and
- (k) automatically display the result at a field on the display screen in the first column below the output numeric values and mathematical operators.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

automatically insert the second field in response to the receiving into memory the mathematical operator, wherein the second field comprises an intersection of the first

column and a second row below the first field, and wherein the second field is initially displayed as empty.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

(l) modify one or more of the input numeric values or mathematical operators in its location on the display screen; and

(m) automatically recalculate and redisplay the result of the input numeric values and mathematical operators as modified.

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11. The system of claim 8,  
wherein at least one of the output numeric values is substantially identical in form to the corresponding input numeric value.

12. The system of claim 8,  
wherein step (c) is performed substantially simultaneously with step (a).

13. The system of claim 8,  
wherein step (h) is performed substantially simultaneously with step (f).

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14. The system of claim 8, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

perform steps (a) through (k) again in a second column on the display screen, wherein the second column comprises a plurality of number fields displayed vertically and a plurality of operation fields displayed vertically.

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15. A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by a computer to implement:

(a) receiving into a memory a first input numeric value;  
(b) determining a first output numeric value based on the first input numeric value;

(c) displaying the first output numeric value in a first field on a display screen, wherein the first field comprises an intersection of a first column and a first row;

(d) receiving into the memory a mathematical operator;

(e) automatically switching input focus to a second field in response to the receiving into the memory the mathematical operator, wherein the second field is displayed below the first field on the display screen;

(f) receiving into the memory a second input numeric value;

(g) determining a second output numeric value based on the second input numeric value;

(h) displaying the second output numeric value in the second field on the display screen;

(i) repeating steps (c) through (h) until all input numeric values and mathematical operators in a desired calculation have been received into the memory;

(j) automatically calculating a result of the input numeric values and mathematical operators entered in steps (a) through (i); and

(k) automatically displaying the result at a field on the display screen in the first column below the output numeric values and mathematical operators.

16. The carrier medium of claim 15, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

automatically inserting the second field in response to the receiving into memory the mathematical operator, wherein the second field comprises an intersection of the first column and a second row below the first field, and wherein the second field is initially displayed as empty.

17. The carrier medium of claim 15, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

(l) modifying one or more of the input numeric values or mathematical operators in its location on the display screen; and

5 (m) automatically recalculating and redisplaying the result of the input numeric values and mathematical operators as modified.

18. The carrier medium of claim 15,

10 wherein at least one of the output numeric values is substantially identical in form to the corresponding input numeric value.

19. The carrier medium of claim 15,

wherein step (c) is performed substantially simultaneously with step (a).

15 20. The carrier medium of claim 15,

wherein step (h) is performed substantially simultaneously with step (f).

21. The carrier medium of claim 15, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

20 performing steps (a) through (k) again in a second column on the display screen, wherein the second column comprises a plurality of number fields displayed vertically and a plurality of operation fields displayed vertically.